

**THE METROPOLITAN SEWAGE MANURE COMPANY** held their usual general meeting at their offices, 7, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, on 7th inst., when reports of directors, engineer, and auditors, statement of accounts, &c., were read. The reports announced the progress of the company to be sound and encouraging, the engineer's more particularly detailing the state of the works as now so far forward that, with the engine and other apparatus set to work, a series of satisfactory experiments had been gone into, and 300 tons of sewage water lifted per hour. A distribution of pipes for a district of 700 acres was announced. On a motion being made that the report of the directors be received and adopted, and be printed and circulated among the shareholders should the directors see fit, a long and somewhat stormy discussion arose, mainly on the subject and merits of a protest by Mr. Smith of Deanston (as we understood) and three other gentlemen, against the proceedings of the directors in the matter in dispute with the Sewers Commissioners, during which it was elicited that not only had the dispute in question been settled, but a boon had been granted by the commissioners, for fifteen months, to which it appeared the company had no legal title by their Act, namely, liberty to take sewage water from the opening of the Counters 'Creek Sewer into the Kensington Canal; that the liberty to do so enabled the directors to be going on with something profitable in place of resting on their oars, as they must otherwise do till the new scheme of general sewage to be gone into by the Commissioners of Sewers should be carried out; that the sewage water thus granted them, though not sewage properly speaking, was much stronger than many were led to conceive, each gallon yielding, near low water, no less than sixty-one grains of matter, not that in mere suspension, but in full solution, while the strongest quality of the sewage in the King's College pond sewer yielded but 80 grains, and the average only 46 grains; that the canal water itself yielded 36 grains, and was therefore double the strength of Thames water; and that as to the legality of the directors' proceedings and their dispute with the Sewers Commissioners, it was already their intention to call a special general meeting, in which a detail of these would be entered into with the shareholders. The motion was ultimately carried, in the face of more than one amendment, by a majority of 15 to 1. The minutes of the previous meeting were then read and confirmed, and other resolutions were put and carried before the meeting separated. In course of the proceedings it was stated that the Company now comprised about 160 shareholders, exclusive of the directory.

**THE STATE OF THE LONDON SQUARES.**—My dear Builder,—Do you ever walk through Russell or Bloomsbury or Brunswick or Mecklenburgh squares? If so, you must have observed at this time of the year a fearful amount of decaying vegetation in the shape of dead leaves, covering the area of the ornamental grounds of these squares. What can the inhabitants be about? In my way to the city, I pass two or three of these fashionable truck-heaps, and I have observed no clearance of the leaves for fourteen days. Given, the amount of dead leaves on an average of eight acres well moistened by the rains of this variable season; required, the amount of pestiferous malaria engendered for the especial benefit of the denizens of these aristocratic piles of building. Do launch an anathema against this bad example of apathy and dirtiness shown to the poorer classes by those who should be foremost in the race of cleanliness and decency—or a side blow in a corner—some of your *"fulmina secunda"*—would perhaps suffice to wake the sleepy souls, and I shall not be either compelled to wander out of my way down the New-road, or lose myself in the classic purlieus of Drury-lane or Clare-market. A.

**MEETING OF SOCIETIES.**—The Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries will commence their session on Thursday next, the 16th inst. The Institute of Architects will hold their first meeting on Monday, the 20th. The Architectural Association will have a meeting on the 17th. The Manchester Athenæum soirée will be held on the 16th, when Lord Mahon will preside.

**BLIND BUILDERS.—RETURN OF THE DISORDER.**—Tenders for additions to two houses in Dean-street, Fetter-lane; Mr. King, architect.

Madgin .....	£244
Hawke .....	225
Pasmore (accepted) .....	172

For rebuilding the public-house known as the Black Dog, Shoe-lane.

Messrs. P'Anson .....	£1,396
Paul .....	1,332
Messrs. Ardning .....	1,310
Starkey .....	1,291
Messrs. Locke and Newham .....	1,290
Brake .....	1,240
Parkyn .....	977

For new shed and other works at the Grosvenor Canal Basin; Mr. Cundy, architect.

Nowell .....	£215	0	0
Pitpatrick .....	209	0	0
Stoner .....	183	0	0
Lloyd .....	177	0	0
George .....	176	10	0
Bennett .....	174	0	0
Newman .....	173	10	0
Walker and Soper .....	160	0	0
W. Gerry .....	157	10	0
R. Watts .....	154	0	0
Underhill .....	153	0	0
Higgs and Son .....	153	0	0

**ART IN THE CRADLE AT LIVERPOOL.**—

"Gif Leverpools good maior ad everre be  
Made father's innys hys pore off malornitee,  
Thenne sal be criden, bye ye townemenns free,  
Ane silverre cradle too hys fair ladye,"  
says the old legend; and the present mayor, Mr. Horsfall, having had the good fortune to be made a father in his year of mayoralty, a number of the burgesses subscribed to maintain the custom. Last week the cradle was presented, and is thus described by the local press:—"It is a fairy-like model, of the value of 120*l.*, and is a beautiful work of art, placed under a glass shade, forming a magnificent ornament for the drawing-room. The general form of the body is that of the nautilus shell, which was chosen as being appropriate to a seaport town, on one side of which is chased, in high relief, a group of figures, representing a mother placing in the arms of its father their new-born child. Supporting the medallion on which the figures are placed are two angels, with expanded wings; and issuing from beneath them, and under the medallion, are beautiful scrolls of poppies and lilies, emblems of Sleep and Peace. On the top of the scroll or apex sits the Genius of Liverpool; and at the foot stands the Liver, the ancient bearing in the arms of the town. The cot rests at each end on axes, so as to allow it to rock backwards and forwards. These are passed through the stems of two large seaweeds, or layers. At the bottom of their stems are two sea-fish, resting on a richly chased ground or shore, strewn over with shells, corals, fuchi, and other marine plants and objects." At the base of the whole is written on one side, "Ye spirit of ye legende," which we have given above, and on the other an explanatory dedication. The design is attributed to Mr. Solomon Gibson, sculptor, of Liverpool, brother of Mr. John Gibson, of Rome.

**ELDON CHURCH, OVER A COAL MINE.**—Sir: In your notice, last week, of churches, you mention the new church for the Eldon district, Sheffield, and ask the question—Why it was built over an old coal mine? Most of the land in that neighbourhood is undermined, but only to a short depth, averaging about 10 yards. To render the building perfectly secure, I had 5-feet square shafts sunk to the solid ground; these are filled up with rubble, and well grouted. The shafts are 15 feet apart, centre and centre. From these shafts, double brick semi-circular arches were thrown over,—the ground being cut out the shape required, thereby forming the centres for the arches. You will see by this that the whole rests on a solid foundation. The extra expense of putting in this foundation has not exceeded 50*l.* above what an ordinary one would have cost. For my own part, I never entertained the slightest doubt as to the stability of the foundation; and I do not anticipate more than very slight settlements arising from the great quantity of rain that has fallen, and what is ordinary in such buildings.—JOSEPH MITCHELL, Sheffield, November 6, 1848.

**MUSIC AND THE NEWS.**—A novel and not uninteresting addition to the promenade at Drury Lane Theatre has been made by Mr. Frederick Gye, in the shape of a reading-room profusely supplied, not merely with the London and provincial papers, but with those of many foreign parts, and wherein scores of people may be seen, during the performance of some of the fine music which M. Jullien has taught the multitude to enjoy, at the same time gathering the news. The enthusiasm with which the National Anthem is received here nightly, wonderfully played as it is,—an enthusiasm which allows no hat to be seen on,—an enthusiasm which is positively almost delirium, and perhaps almost too hot to last,—is a fact to be noted and enjoyed too, whether by THE BUILDER or the *Morning Post*. It would do a red-republican good to see the uproarious rogues.

**THE TRIANGULATION OF LONDON.**—The "crow's nest," built on the top of St. Paul's to enable the sappers and miners to survey the metropolis, has been taken down. We find the following notes in several of our contemporaries, and cannot, therefore, give them the right parentage:—"Although the scaffold was only up three months, the observations taken were between three and four thousand, in which were included every division in the degree. In many instances the same object was gone over as many as six times, none less than three or four. The utmost distance obtained was 26 miles in the circle, with the exception of the north-west point; here Highgate-hill impeded the observations, the crown of the hill being higher than the level from which the observations were taken. With this single exception no difficulties presented themselves, and the survey, and the various altitudes obtained, are of the most satisfactory description. In the language of the parties engaged, the metropolis and the surrounding counties may be considered nearly a level plain. The extreme height of the scaffolding, from the base to the crown upon which the observatory was built, was 91 feet, and took between a fortnight and three weeks in raising. As the whole was bound together with ropes, about one and a half ton was used for the purpose. It may be gratifying to know that in this perilous undertaking not the slightest accident, not even to the breaking of a single pane of glass, occurred, while only some of the corners of the planks were chipped off during the removal. The most dangerous part of the work was the fixing of the poles which supported the cradle, immediately beneath the principal dome. These extend beyond the gallery 35 feet, and great skill and caution were requisite in fixing, as well as in removing them, for had the slightest slip occurred no power could have prevented them falling through into the church. The number of persons employed was ten. It may be interesting to know that the time which they occupied in going up was about seven minutes, while from four to five minutes were occupied in the descent. Some of the persons had to go up and down three or four times a day. During the period the scaffold was up the lead-work of the upper dome was repaired. The expense of the survey" [the structure, we suppose, is meant] is very small, as the materials were supplied by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests." Our readers are aware that we do not look for a very satisfactory result from this survey,—a feeling which is participated in, we believe, by those engaged in the work.

**ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.**—A signal or announcement whistle, of a simple construction, has been invented in place of the old clock-work alarm, by Mr. N. Holmes, of the General Telegraph Company. The *Mining Journal* describes it as consisting of an air-tight box, containing a lever, acted on by the voltaic magnet, and opening a valve on the extremity of the whistle, which is sounded by air introduced through a gutta percha pipe from an iron reservoir, drawing out, or chargeable, by mere hand, on the telescope principle.—A letter from New York says that the scientific world there is much engaged in the contest among telegraph inventors. "The great merit of the discovery," it observes, "lies with Mr. Morse, his plan being everywhere successful. This gentleman is by profession a historical and portrait painter, and